

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

U N I O N L E A G U E,

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

DECEMBER 13th, 1869.

PHILADELPHIA:

HENRY B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,

Nos. 1102 AND 1104 SANSON STREET.

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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

UNION LEAGUE.

Silvery THE last annual meeting of the Union League preceded the inauguration of General Grant's administration by about three months. On the day of that meeting, there were many pure-minded and patriotic men who severally looked towards the future with various degrees of apprehension. Confidence in the possible policy of the incoming government was by no means universal. Among the party of doubters, small though it was, some feared one thing, some another; but all feared something, and burdened their predictions with their fears. The vague, unfounded dread lest General Grant should in some way prove unfaithful to the principles and the policy of the party which elected him, was the underlying idea of all this distrust. General Grant had said

nothing that committed him. He had quietly assumed the honors and responsibilities which the Union Party had bestowed upon him, but he had promised nothing in return. In those days of anxiety we held that, for a character of General Grant's integrity, the acceptance of a nomination was the acceptance of the principles of the party that made it. This was a position which no honorable man would deny, and no honest man would seek to evade. We were right in our estimate of General Grant's character, and of his own views of the solemn obligations which he had voluntarily assumed. From the day of his inauguration until the present moment, who can point to a single act that looks like a departure from the strictest principles of the Union Party? Nor has he been a pledged but reluctant follower of our party; he has cheerfully assumed the leadership which belongs to his high office, and now beckons us forward on ways of which he was charged with being unacquainted. To this Association, which anticipated the popular movement that made General Grant President of the United States, his career should be an honest satisfaction, and one more example in that lesson, which all political parties should learn, which teaches us to bestow our offices upon none but men of unblemished reputation. Make the citizen's character the measure of his political success, and the name of politician will cease to be a reproach; politics will become what they should be under our form of government, the most honorable vocation; and we shall

cease to sigh, in culpable and general inaction, over the public crimes of the bad and insufficient men whom we have helped to put into those high places, where alone they can do civil mischief, and from which they shame us before the face of the world.

In addition to his fidelity to the principles of his party, General Grant's administration has displayed qualities which must commend it to the respect of all good citizens, whatever may be their political creeds. From the day of his advent into office, honesty, economy, impartiality and wisdom have characterized every department of the Government. Even our political opponents, who have neither principles nor a policy of their own, who for the last ten years have acted as obstructives only—who have nothing to propose, but simply seek for anything to condemn—who have yielded to us their once boasted position as the leaders of liberal opinions in the van of the world's progress—even these cynics, whose days and nights have been devoted to acquiring the art of political criticism, have developed attacks so weak, and have discovered flaws so few in the Administration, that their worst efforts hardly merit the name or exhibit the power of a serious political opposition. Our countrymen are too clear-sighted not to have recognized the blessings which followed Andrew Johnson's departure from office. The sudden return to civil order in the South, the disbanding of the secret associations of midnight assassins, the increased security of our

colored citizens in life and limb, as well as their improved social and industrial condition—the diminution of the public debt, the rise of the public credit, the prospect of a reduction of the burden of taxation, the confidence which ran, like good tidings, through the various interests of our vast industries ; and above all, the calming of the public pulse, heretofore fluttering with the excitements of a furious war, or full of the nervousness of a half accomplished peace, to a tone that indicated an abatement of the universal fever, and a gradual return to our former healthy condition—these things plainly showed that a wise and temperate ruler was at the head of affairs, and that henceforth the people might rise up and lie down in peace—in that peace which our great leader longed for, and the prayer for which had been his only utterance, the only party-cry which he had given us throughout the canvass which preceded his elevation to office. There is no doubt that the Administration will persevere in the sound and sensible policy which it has so far pursued, uninfluenced by political or financial schemers, and that before the termination of the next session of Congress the rate of interest will be reduced on the public debt to a point approaching that which the other great nations of the world pay on their public securities ; that, as a consequence, direct taxation may be dispensed with ; and that the currency of the country will be placed on so stable a foundation as to inspire our men of business with confidence, and enable them to enter upon new

plans of industry or development, without fear of those financial revulsions which heretofore have periodically desolated the industries of our land, crushing the hopes of enterprise, the soundest views of far-seeing speculation, and even bringing to want and misery the worthy day-laborers at the loom and the anvil. If the promises which the Administration now gives be verified—and it needs little more than adherence to the present policy to bring that about—who may calculate the wealth, the power, the political solidity, and the influence in the world's affairs to which our country will attain within the life of a generation of men? The bonds which hold together these States are stronger to-day than they have ever been since the adoption of the Federal Constitution. As far as the eye may look, we can see no cause, however distant, that may again threaten the Union. The ties of that Union have already endured a strain that would have torn into shreds the oldest and most compact empire of Europe. To the thinkers of the old world our history is a marvel, our present progress is a marvel, and our future is something more than a marvel; it is a solemn admonition to them and to their institutions, the dangers to which will arise not directly from us, but from their own people resolving in a body to follow our example. With the question of human slavery at rest, the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution adopted, and the enormity of having two classes of citizens, with unequal political rights, existing in a republic, put beyond

the reach of future sectional legislation, it is difficult to imagine that such passionless questions as Free Trade or Protection, low Tariff or high Tariff, or any other matter of mere public policy, shall disturb the harmony of our general interests, or provoke to actual hostilities any two parties of Americans among whom a spark of that old love lingers which God implanted in our natures when he made us of one blood, of one bone, and of one spirit.

We have had reason to rejoice, with our fellow-members of the Union Party, at three important events which have taken place in our State since the last annual meeting of the League; the passage of a constitutional Registry Law, the decision of the courts in the Contested Election Cases, and the re-election of our candidates for Governor and Supreme Judge.

The passage of the Registry Law, and the vindication of its constitutionality before the Supreme Court, were mainly due to the efforts of a committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the League. The gentlemen composing that committee are entitled to our gratitude for the zeal and success with which they performed their difficult duties. Let it be remembered that this law had but one object, that of securing a fair expression of the popular will at the polls. Its provisions bore equally hard on either party that might attempt the commission of frauds. It aimed only at establishing the rights of the real majority of the people, whatever might be their

politics. There could be no possible objection to the law in the minds of honest men. Why our opponents objected to it, and fought against it, from its inception in the Legislature until it became the law of the land by the decision of the Supreme Court, we knew full well, and we had counted on, and provided against, this opposition. The result of the late election carries with it its own comment, and needs no sagacity to explain what heretofore were the particular frauds, or by which party they were committed. Henceforth, whatever may be the changes of parties in our city, we may at least look for a genuine popular verdict at the polls.

The result of the Contested Election Cases, and the impartial and righteous decision of the Court of Common Pleas in that laborious proceeding, must be a cheering indication to every good citizen. It establishes the fact that, amidst all the corruptions of politics—the half frauds, at which good party men are expected to wink, and the whole frauds which bad men practice—the purity of our institutions cannot be seriously attacked, without raising up patriotic citizens to defend them; and that however hard and intricate the case may be, however clouded with doubt, or distorted by passion, public virtue as yet can find a refuge in our courts, and a bench of incorruptible men to vindicate and establish the right. We trust that the Registry Law may hereafter be an effectual barrier to the commission of such frauds and errors as were brought to light in the Contested Election

Cases. It is scarcely credible that an election should be held in any city of the United States in which a whole municipal ticket, with the exception of one officer only, should owe its apparent election to fraud and falsehood. The statement of such a fact seems monstrous, and odious as it is monstrous; and the law which may prevent another such exhibition in a republic was not passed too soon, and cannot be too strictly enforced.

The recent election for Governor and Supreme Judge in the State, and for Members of Council in the City, was a triumph for the Union Party that should not pass without mention. The result in the city was particularly gratifying, because it surpassed the measure of our most sanguine expectations, overran the calculations of those who hoped the highest from the Registry Law, and from the moment the vote was announced, secured the State for Governor Geary and Judge Williams beyond peradventure.

In this election the League took its usual share, and bore its burden of the labor. On the twenty-fourth of September last, at a special meeting of the League, a committee of twenty-five members was appointed for the purpose of rendering such aid to the party at the approaching election as might be deemed advisable. The committee performed its work with that alacrity and zeal which has always characterized the committees of our Association. In co-operation with the State Central Committee, and the City Executive Committee, a great

change was effected in the aspect of political affairs within the brief space of time that bounded the labors of your committee. Too much praise cannot be accorded to the committee and its coadjutors for the objects which their activity accomplished in so short a period. The most sagacious and effective movement which they made was in obtaining the eloquent aid of the Secretary of the Treasury, and in giving him an opportunity to make a clear and honest exposition of the policy of the Administration, and to foreshadow the future course of public affairs as they might be influenced by his department, or by those controlled by his fellow-members of the Cabinet. This address of the Secretary of the Treasury produced an admirable effect throughout the land, and in our canvass its importance can hardly be estimated. We take pleasure in returning the thanks of the League to Secretary Boutwell for his valuable services, and to acknowledge the obligations of the party to the State Central Committee, to the City Executive Committee, and to our own Committee of Twenty-five.

In the early part of the summer, a single point of public interest invited and received the attention of the Board. The banishment of the heads of Washington and Jackson from the Postage Stamps most in use, and the remarkable substitution of the representations of a locomotive engine, and a mounted post-boy in their places, had been publicly criticized in the League with great dissatisfaction and regret, and subsequently the subject was

brought directly to the notice of the Board. In such an unworthy change, we were satisfied that the administration of President Grant had taken no part. The new stamps had been prepared by the contractors under President Johnson. A committee was appointed to communicate to the Post-Master General what the Board believed to be the general feeling in the League on the subject, and such a representation was accordingly made. The miscarriage of his letter appears to have deprived the Board of the receipt of the Post-Master General's acknowledgment of our communication. We learn, however, that the memorial of the committee was received, and its suggestions carefully considered. We have reason to suppose that our views coincided with those of the Post-Master General, as we have the satisfaction to learn that new dies are now in preparation, and five profile and five full-face heads of Washington, Hamilton, Franklin, Jackson and Lincoln, are to be substituted for the ten denominations of stamps, and that the present stamps are to be withdrawn as soon as possible. It will be a source of satisfaction to us, if the action of the Board may have in any way contributed to a result which all loyal men will welcome, and that the effigies of the Father of his Country, and of the stout-hearted loyalist, who, in his day, stamped out the fires of Nullification, shall again be restored to their places of honor in the postal service of the Union.

The Report of the Library Committee exhibits a sen-

sible and proper activity in that department. Last year the Board of Directors made an appropriation of two thousand dollars, for the purchase of books, and this year they have appropriated twenty-five hundred dollars for the same purpose. With these appropriations the foundations of a library have been laid. In its first purchases, the Committee confined itself strictly to works of reference, and to procuring as perfect a set of the English classics as might be obtained. These objects being nearly accomplished, the Committee will hereafter turn its attention towards the acquisition of works in the more elegant branches of literature. With what success the Committee has so far proceeded, our members may themselves judge, by an inspection of the library. Since the last Report of the Committee, eleven hundred and forty-five volumes, have been added to the Library by purchase, and nineteen volumes by donation, at a cost of twenty-seven hundred and fifty dollars and thirty-five cents. One hundred and twenty volumes have been rebound within the present year, at a cost of two hundred and eleven dollars and seventy-eight cents. The total number of volumes now in the Library amounts to twenty-six hundred and eighty-nine. This is a small literary stock for an institution of the magnitude of the Union League; but, so far as it goes, it is well selected and valuable; and if the Directors should be able to continue their appropriations, in time the Library may become a striking feature of the League.

The Committee has also expended, in the course of the present year, thirteen hundred and eighty-one dollars and four cents, in subscriptions to newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals; making a total expenditure of four thousand, three hundred and forty-three dollars and seventeen cents.

The Report of the Committee on Membership sets forth, that since the date of the last Report, they have held thirteen stated meetings. The names of one hundred and twenty-eight candidates have been considered by the Committee, of which number, one hundred and thirteen were recommended for membership to the Board of Directors. The names of eight candidates are now upon the Membership Book, awaiting the action of the Committee. The thanks of the League are due to the gentlemen composing this Committee, for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their responsible and not always agreeable duties.

The roll of the League, on the first day of December, 1869, contained the names of one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight members. Of this number, ninety-three were elected since the date of the last Report. We have lost since that date, sixty-eight members by resignation, twenty by death, and thirty-nine were suspended for the non-payment of their annual dues. We shall, therefore, enter upon the coming year with a decrease of thirty-four in our membership, as compared with the number given in the last annual Report. It needs no

argument to prove that an establishment of the size and quality of the League House, cannot be maintained, at its present high standard, if there should be a serious falling off in our membership, without a commensurate increase of each members' annual tax. The Directors do not apprehend that the necessity for any such advance in the tax will ever arise; but in view of that possibility, they once more urge upon their fellow members, the policy of increasing our numbers to a point, that may at least equal the capacity of our establishment. There are many citizens, of our political belief, who have not as yet joined the League; simply because they have not had an invitation, so to do, extended to them by our members. The Directors therefore recommend our members to canvass their friends and acquaintance, with a view of adding to our roll the names of all proper men.

The Reports of the Treasurer and of the Auditors for the year 1869, are now upon the table for examination. The income of the League for the year ending on the first of December, 1869, was fifty thousand and eighty-two dollars and fifty-eight cents, which, added to the surplus of the previous year, amounts to sixty-seven thousand, nine hundred and sixty-two dollars and thirty-six cents. The disbursements for the same period were forty-seven thousand, five hundred and ninety-eight dollars and one cent, leaving a surplus of twenty thousand, three hundred and sixty-four dollars and thirty-five

cents. There is no indebtedness outstanding to diminish this amount. Taking into consideration the flourishing condition of our treasury, the Directors have fixed the annual tax for the following year at twenty-five dollars.

In concluding this Report, the Directors, with justifiable pride, would ask the attention of our members, and that of the Union Party in general, to what has been and is the political condition of the State of Pennsylvania, and conjure you, in the name of our beloved commonwealth, so to perform your duties as citizens, that no neglect, no unwise inaction, no fancied superiority in the claims of personal employment, no lower duties—for there are none higher save those of religion—shall so distract your minds or win your hearts, that the conduct of public affairs may lapse into the hands of our political opponents, and thus the country at large may fail to reap the wholesome fruits of that harvest which our strong men sowed in their blood, and our women watered with their tears. None know better than our astute adversaries, that Pennsylvania is the key to the whole political position. Indeed, we fear that, on our side, the fact is not so fully recognized; certainly it is not so sagaciously acted upon. It has almost passed into a proverb, that “as goes Pennsylvania, so goes the Union.” The reason for the saying is a clear one; it is because with Pennsylvania, go the sympathies, the interests, and the votes of her great sisters of the central belt of states, a belt which includes within it two thirds

of the wealth, the population and the industry of the entire Union. These states, acting in harmony, and pursuing a common policy, might, if they so willed it, shape the destinies of their sisters, and be, and continue to be, the supreme power in the republic. As the elections in Pennsylvania precede those held in the other states, her example and her decision carry a weight with them that no other state exercises; because there is no other single state that holds in such intimate political sympathy the powerful commonwealths around her. The history of the election of any national candidate, will prove the truth of the above deductions. Until the early triumphs of the Union Party, Pennsylvania was the stronghold of the Democracy; and she was treated with the respect due to her position by that party throughout the country. No praise, no office, no privilege, was too great to be bestowed by the Democracy upon the source and channel of their power. Other states might be disregarded or coldly treated; but the place of Pennsylvania was upon the bosom of the administration at Washington, and her slightest whisper was listened to with most solicitous respect. When the Democracy lost Pennsylvania, they lost their citadel. Without her, they could do nothing; with her, they could do anything. From the day they lost her, until the present hour, they have been engaged in a ceaseless and furious struggle to regain power over her. Pennsylvania was the battle-ground

of the Union Party, from the day the sword was drawn at Sumter, until it was sheathed at Appomattox; and when blood had ceased to flow, and the same ideas which inspired the war came again into conflict at the ballot-box, this state continued to be the field upon which the fight was hottest, and here the contest rages most fiercely at the present hour. It is impossible to measure with words what Pennsylvania has suffered for her fidelity to the Union cause; great as has been the recompense, which she has shared with her sister states. The lives of her people and her treasure, she gave with the other states; not in strict proportion to her population, but in overflowing measure. Her eleven regiments, the "Reserve," inspired confidence at Washington, after the disaster at Bull Run, and by their presence probably saved the Capitol, in checking Beauregard's intended advance. Upon her soil, with our forces commanded by one of her sons, and with the whole country deploring the fall of another, was fought the great turning battle of the war; after which the foe never assumed the offensive. Before that battle, a fourth of the state had been ravaged by the invader. Our towns and homesteads had been sacked and given to the flames, our old men and children had been driven into the woods and the mountains, our women had suffered nameless horrors, and the eyes of the insolent foe had looked

upon the very gates of our State Capitol. What other of the Northern States can point to such an historical array of afflictions, in evidence of its fidelity to the Union cause? Throughout the whole of these dreary days, our industries were at work for the common good. Our iron was being forged into the guns, the shot and shell, and the armor-plates of our vessels; our mines were pouring out the coal that kept our fleet at sea, and alone enabled us to maintain a blockade upon which the result of the struggle depended, and every department of our vast manufacturing interest clanged and buzzed with the thousand operations that were necessary to supply the minor wants of our fleets and armies. Let any depreciator of this grand old commonwealth answer, where would have been the United States in those days, unless they had contained among them the state of Pennsylvania?

The war ended according to God's providence; and no true American grudges the cost, least of all the patriots of this State. The war indeed ended in the field; but with us, it recommenced in another form, at the polls, and here it has raged, with unabated passion, until the present time. Our unscrupulous opponents have exhausted the powers of their well known party tactics upon us. All that intimidation, falsehood, misrepresentation, appeals to brutal prejudice, threatened and enacted violence, secret and

open fraud could compass, have been freely and perseveringly used against us. Again and again, by strenuous and unceasing efforts, we have carried the state in the interests of the Union Party; but at times, by majorities so small, as compared with the total vote, that we might well have cause for future anxiety. We believe, however, that Pennsylvania, on any full and honest vote that may be obtained, is to-day with us; and so she will continue to be, unless we may hereafter lose her through blind mismanagement on the part of those who now have charge of the fortunes of our party. All that we ask, to continue our political supremacy, is a proper recognition of the rights and interests of our State, a fair share in the counsels of the nation, and the mere justice of being considered equally, with the other states that have shown themselves to be as true as we have been to the creed of the Union Party. Whether these rights be accorded, and these interests be cared for or not—whether our voice shall be listened to, or our advice shall be sought for or disregarded—what we have claimed for Pennsylvania is her scanty due; and we shall not relinquish the claim, nor cease to urge it at all times, and under all circumstances. On our part, let us continue faithful to the principles which have laid the ground-work of all our political successes, and true to the administration which represents them; for these principles are not

mere matters of temporary expediency, or of popular policy. They are vital with truth, right in themselves, right in the eyes of man's highest wisdom, and, as we reverently trust, right in the sight of God. Let our faith be no passive one. Let it inspire us to watch with ceaseless vigilance, and to work with ceaseless vigor. Let it instruct us to teach our boys and young men the lessons which we learned through a hard and dearly bought experience; so that the great doctrines of the Union Party—the doctrines of universal freedom, and of equal and exact justice to all—be transmitted from father to son, from century to century, from nation to nation; and thus extend their benign influence from the present day until the last hour of human history.

By order of the Board of Directors,

GEO. H. BOKER,

Secretary.

APPENDIX.

PHILADELPHIA, *December 1, 1869.*

To the Union League of Philadelphia :

GENTLEMEN :—The undersigned, auditors appointed by the Board of Directors of the League, beg leave to report, that they have examined the accounts of the Treasurer to the 1st inst., compared them with the vouchers, and found them to be correct. They present in the aggregate the following figures :

On hand December 1, 1868, cash in Bank,	\$1,161 03	
\$10,000 United States Bonds, costing,	10,718 75	
6,000 Loan on call, at 6 per cent,	6,000 00	
		————— \$17,879 78
Entrance fee from 9 members for 1868, at		
\$25, ...	\$225 00	
Annual tax from 2 members for 1868, at		
\$25, ...	50 00	
Entrance fee from 82 members for 1869, at		
\$25, ...	2050 00	
Annual tax from 1734 members for 1869,		
at \$25, ...	43,350 00	
Annual tax from 23 members for 1869, at		
\$12 50, ...	287 50	
Annual tax from 2 members for 1870, at		
\$25, ...	50 00	
		————— \$46,012 50
From Billiards, ...		4,070 08
		————— \$67,962 36

Amount Forward, ... \$67,962 36

EXPENDITURES.

Real Estate Broad and Sansom street, .	\$736 25	
House and Lot on Sansom street, . .	245 75	
House and Lot on Moravian street, . .	1,451 25	
Int. on Bonds and Ground Rent, \$7,691 75		
Less Interest received on Loans, 2,924 00		
		4,767 75
Trustees of the Sinking Fund, . .	5,000 00	
Household Effects, ...	3,176 01	
Deposit for Permanent Insurance, . .	6 90	
Expenses, ...	27,870 93	
Library Committee, ...	4,343 17	47,598 01
Balance, ...		\$20,364 35
In \$10,000 United States Bonds, costing, .	\$10,718 75	
In \$5,000 United States Bonds 6 per cent.		
currency, ...	5,170 86	
In \$2,500 Union League Bonds, . .	2,250 00	
In \$500 Loan on Call, ...	500 00	
Cash in Bank, ...	1,724 74	
		\$20,364 35

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WARD B. HASELTINE,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
HENRY PERKINS,	
E. W. BAILEY,	

